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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Political Information: Friction Between Students
 and Central Government Authorities at Changchun
 University

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. Because the students belonging to the Changchun Student League could not reach an agreement on policy with a Representative of the Ministry of Education who was dispatched to Changchun to arrange for the foundation of Changchun University, Mr. HUANG Ju-shin (黄如金) was appointed as the new president of the university. Mr. HUANG has studied in the United States for four years and afterwards was in Europe where he studied at Berlin University for 11 months. After returning to China he became a professor at Hunan University. Up to his present appointment he was the chief of the social education department (of Hunan University?). He arrived in Changchun 27 August 1946.
2. The major problem of disagreement between the student League and the Representative was the examination required of persons, who were formerly students of high schools or of the university in the Manchukuo period, and who want to continue their schooling under the new school system of the Central Government. The University administration had announced that since the students under the Japanese Manchukuo regime were slavishly educated, they must therefore be examined; after this examination (which would determine both intellectual ability and freedom of political thought) the enrollment for the university would be determined. The students were against such an examination.
3. The principle of carrying out this system of examinations was kept by the new president. He announced that he was going to examine the scientific and intellectual qualifications of the students. The Student League insisted that such an entrance examination was not necessary because the Central Government was not founding a new university but was merely reorganizing the old school system and asserting its authority over schools formerly in existence. The old schools themselves as a whole now recognized the authority of the Chinese Government's Central Education Department; therefore, the students insisted that, since they had been students under the system to be reorganized, registration with the new authorities should be sufficient. They argued that the President was not actually concerned with the problem of qualifications of students according to intellectual and scientific knowledge but that the very aim of the examination was to exclude unfavorable elements among the student groups, especially such elements who might have sympathized with the Communist forces. The students claimed that since the examination was to be only oral, they believed that the school authorities, with an excuse of examining the knowledge of the students, wanted to carry out a rigid selection of the university students.
4. However, after several negotiations between the president and the students it was finally decided that the examinations should take place 16 September 1946. At

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this date, only 300 names had been listed by the registration bureau. The students claimed that this was a result of the laxity and idleness of the registration bureau in registering students. The students agitated concerning this point and the examinations were delayed until the 20th of September. The students again attempted to gain their aim -- registration without any examination. They hoped to do this by a delaying action.

5. On the evening of 18 September 1946 several students were said to have heard the roar of big guns very near the campus and thought at first that it must be an attack of the Communist forces; however they later claimed that a group of Nationalist Army soldiers had shot against them with the expressed purpose of threatening them. (Actually only blank shells were used, but the students considered this as a threat.) Since this date the situation between the school authorities and the students has been very disturbed. Not all students formerly at the university were permitted to register for the new term. Approximately 1,000 students are living together in the students' boarding house which is maintained by the Education Department at their own expense. The families of most of these students are in Communist territory. There are no communications between the students and their families and no money is received from them. With the increased cost of living the students are saying that ultimately they will be compelled to go home and consequently go over to the Communist side.

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Note: According to previous information supplied by source, the maximum enrollment of Changchun University, known as Chienkuo University under the puppet regime, at the time of the Japanese defeat in Manchuria could have been no more than 1200 students, of whom half were Japanese. It is probable that part, if not all, of the Japanese students have been repatriated. Source further stated that during the evolution of the Changchun Student League, a large proportion of former students, the left-wing group within the organization, had retreated from Changchun with the Chinese Communists. If source is correct in his summary of the development of the League, only a small proportion of the students applying for enrollment could have been enrolled in that university during the puppet regime.)

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